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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7411**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 572**

**NOTE PREPARED: Jan 24, 2013**

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Child Fatality Reviews.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Head

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

- (1) Establishes a child fatality committee in each county to:
  - (a) determine whether to establish a county or regional child fatality review team for the county;
  - (b) appoint members to the local child fatality review team; and
  - (c) determine whether the committee will enter into a memorandum of understanding with another local child fatality review team to receive, upon request, guidance and expertise from the other local child fatality review team.
- (2) Requires the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to employ a state child fatality review coordinator to assist the statewide child fatality review committee and assist local child fatality review teams.
- (3) Establishes other duties for the State Child Fatality Review Coordinator.
- (4) Establishes duties and responsibilities of local child fatality review teams and the Statewide Child Fatality Review Committee.
- (5) Requires the following to be paid from funds appropriated to the ISDH:
  - (a) The salary of the State Child Fatality Review Coordinator.
  - (b) Expenses for training for the state child fatality review coordinator, members of local child fatality review teams, and members of the statewide child fatality review committee.
  - (c) Other expenses related to the duties of the state child fatality review coordinator.
- (6) Repeals current provisions concerning local child fatality review teams and the Statewide Child Fatality Review Committee.
- (7) Relocates certain provisions that are repealed concerning local child fatality review teams and the Statewide Child Fatality Review Committee.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2013.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill transfers responsibility of local child fatality review teams and the Statewide Child Fatality Review Team from the Department of Child Services (DCS) to the Indiana State Department of Health. This provision is expected to have no net fiscal impact.

However, the bill requires the ISDH to employ a Child Fatality Review Coordinator to assist the Statewide Child Fatality Review Team. Under the bill, the costs of employing the Child Fatality Review Coordinator, training members of the State Child Fatality Review team and local child fatality review teams, as well as any other expenses related to the duties of the Child Fatality Review Coordinator are to be provided from funds appropriated to the ISDH. In order to fulfill these requirements of the bill, ISDH expenditures could increase.

The bill's requirements represent an additional agency workload and expenditures outside of the agency's routine administrative functions, and existing staffing and resource levels, if currently being used to capacity, may be insufficient for full implementation. The additional funds and resources required could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another program or with new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend on legislative and administrative actions.

**Background Information:** The DCS reports the Statewide Child Fatality Review Team meets approximately monthly. The DCS finances the cost of mileage reimbursement for members of the Statewide Team if a member requests reimbursement. The DCS was unable to provide an average meeting cost for the Statewide Child Fatality Review team; however, average meeting costs are expected to be small.

The DCS is currently in the process of providing training to local child fatality review teams. The training provided is performed in partnership with the National Center for the Review and Prevention of Child Deaths and with other DCS fatality experts. The training for local child fatality review teams was requested by the Statewide Child Fatality Review Team and is to be performed within the coming months. DCS reports that local child fatality review team training has previously not been provided on an ongoing basis.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** This bill could increase the workload of the local prosecuting attorneys, local coroners, local health department officials, and local law enforcement agencies to determine if a county or regional child fatality review team should be established for the county.

Additionally, this bill could increase the workload of the local prosecuting attorneys, local coroners, local health department officials, local law enforcement agencies, local emergency medical services, local fire departments (or volunteer fire departments), and local school districts to perform tasks required of local child fatality review teams. Local workload will vary depending on if the county maintains a local child fatality review team or a regional child fatality review team.

**Background Information:** Local child fatality review teams do not receive reimbursement for their service. Additionally, the DCS reports that not every county currently maintains their own child fatality review team, but that every county is at least represented by a regional fatality review team.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DCS, ISDH.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local prosecuting attorneys, coroners, health department officials, law enforcement agencies, emergency medical services, fire departments (or volunteer fire departments), and school districts.

**Information Sources:** Brady Brookes, DCS; Scott Zarazee, ISDH; State Budget Agency FY 2012 Closeout Data.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.